

Port Allegany School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting
February 4, 2019

MINUTES

Call to Order

President Carlson brought the meeting to order at 7 o'clock p.m. in the high school library with a moment of silence and the flag salute. Mr. Moate called the roll.

Roll Call

Board Present: Dr. Mark Carlson, Mr. Kerry Hawver, Mrs. Cheryl Nasto, Mrs. Erica Petruzzi, Mr. Adam Moate, and Mr. Gary Buchsen.

Board Absent: Mrs. Lisa Drabert, Mr. Sean Lathrop, Mr. Jason Stake, and Mr. Donald Tanner.

Others Present: High School Principal Marc Budd, Elementary Principal Tracy Kio, Assistant Principal Erika Emerick, Lisa VanGorden, and Justin Fillhart.

Due to lack of a quorum, all recommendations were discussion items only, no action was taken.

Public Comment

Doctor Carlson welcomed the visitors. There were no comments relating to agenda items, federal programs or in general.

Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Buchsen reported that three professional employees have submitted letters of intent to retire at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Kio provided the Board with an overview via Google Slides of the elementary school's new initiative School-wide Behavior Support Program. The program has six focus areas: classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, cafeteria, playground, and transportation with goals of positive interactions with others, accepting of others, enriching our minds to focus on academics, and overall self-control. It was implemented after Christmas break and since then the overall climate of the building has improved. Students, staff, cafeteria staff, and bus drivers have been trained in the expectations of behavior overall. Tickets are earned by students for good behavior and there is motivation to get enough tickets to be in a drawing for larger prizes. Mr. Kio exhibited posters that are displayed throughout the building and on busses. How it works – staff (teacher, café, custodian, bus drivers) are given a golden ticket each night to award to any student seen in the act of doing something positive. When a student receives a ticket they go to the office where it erupts into excitement and accolades. The student chooses a numbered stick, signs the golden book, and picks a prize. We call the parent/guardian immediately (if unable to reach, a signed certificate is sent home), then a gold star is placed on the Principal's 200 Club board. After a student gets ten consecutive tickets (stars) their name is placed in the drawing for a larger prize. Mr. Kio reported that the teacher referral system - SWIS platform electronic system is now used. It contains a wealth of information that can be analyzed for use in meeting future needs. Mr. Hawver wondered if there is any type of program or seminar available to help educate students about on-line behavior. Mr. Buchsen has seen curriculum for digital citizenship. Mr. Kio said that Mr. Koehler, Elementary Librarian reviews this in his

library class. Principals commented that Pennsylvania State Police have - in the past - come and did presentations with students. Discussion was held.

Personnel

The following items were discussed: 1) Mrs. Judy Bee's resignation as an aide effective February 1, 2019. The position has been posted internally. 2) Appointment of Mr. Justin Bienkowski as Varsity Football Coach for 2019-2020 school year. 3) Addition of Matthew Causer, Matthew Reed, and Orkhan Mammadov to the substitute list as support staff, all pending completion of paperwork. 4) Approval of volunteer coaches for 2018-2019 softball season as recommended by coaches and Mr. Budd. McKaila Daniels and Sean Lathrop are returning. New are Jeff Schultz, Merle Morey, Hannah Lathrop, and Randy Garzel, pending completion of paperwork.

Finance

Administration is requesting reimbursement to C & G Tours for lodging of the choral students who participated in the Carnegie Hall performance at a cost of \$1,217.30. The group was unable to return to Port Allegany as scheduled due to forecasted inclement weather. Mr. Buchsen suggested that funds received from the Burgart Foundation be used to cover this.

The administration is recommending the Board retain the law firm of Knox Law to provide legal services relating to contract negotiations with the Port Allegany Educational Support Personnel Association. Mr. Buchsen reviewed the letter outlining costs and services noting this group is expert in labor law and negotiations.

Building and Grounds

An issue has developed with the elementary cafeteria freezer, specifically the compressor is shot. Due to urgency, administration has been working with Mazza who has provided a quote for replacement and service at a cost of \$5,500. Brief discussion was held.

Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Buchsen announced that the district has received a PAsmart Grant award in the amount of \$35,000. He reported that \$10,000 is to be used for professional development and the balance for STEM related equipment and computer science related equipment for elementary through middle level grades. Three elementary teachers and one secondary teacher will receive the training which should be completed this spring. Equipment will be obtained after staff finishes the training.

Mr. Buchsen provided the Board with a review of the Tri-County Rural Electric High Speed Internet meeting which was held with Potter County superintendents, commissioners, and local college and university representatives. Tri-County Rural is rolling out a \$77 million high speed internet program for their members. They will be offering high-speed internet, telephone service, and bundled television that is streamed (like Hulu). Tri-County plans to have services available in some locations by this fall.

Board

The first reading of revisions for the following policies was held. Mr. Buchsen noted that revisions are either mandated or recommend for legal liability purposes.

Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment
Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities
Policy 104 - Nondiscrimination/Discriminatory Harassment - Employment Practices
Policy 222 - Tobacco/Nicotine
Policy 247 - Hazing
Policy 249 - Bullying/Cyberbullying
Policy 323 - Tobacco/Nicotine

Policy 707 - Use of School Facilities

In relation to policy 323, Mr. Budd reviewed and displayed some paraphernalia relating to nicotine delivery devices. He noted there is a concern not only with the nicotine, but with what else it could be laced with. Mr. Budd said some schools are testing confiscated devices for drugs. Brief discussion was held.

Filling of the open board seat recently vacated by Mr. Bachman's resignation was discussed. The Board intends to fill the position at next Monday night's meeting.

President Carlson convened an executive session at 8:11 p.m. noting the committee meeting will reconvene for adjournment.

The committee-of-the-whole meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: C. Nasto; Second: K. Hawver. The motion carried unanimously. Doctor Carlson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAM C. MOATE
Secretary to the Board of School Directors